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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" If the hon. Member will bring to my notice any specific cases, I will look into them. Normally the maximum period for which an engine is given on hire is six months."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" In view of the fact that the number of oil engines is limited and it has come to the notice of the Government that once an engine is given to a certain individual, he monopolises it either in his name on in the name of persons benami for him, will the Government issue strict instructions that in no case should this period be exceeded so that every person in need of pump-sets may get a chance? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already answered that the maximum period for which an engine is let on hire is six months. But engines have been given from one month to five months. Only in one case the period exceeded six months; it went up to eight months."

SRI O. KORAN :—" What is the hire charged for oil engines?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have no information with me."

Payment of T.A. to the Presidents of Panchayat Boards for attending the conference of the Presidency Panchayat Union.

* 485 *Q.*—SRI T. ANANTA PAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have permitted the panchayat boards in the State to pay their presidents their expenses to attend the conference held recently at Madras?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" May I know the number of panchayat boards whose representatives attended the conference? From the reports, we hear that the conference was unwieldy and that it is not worth while having a conference of this nature? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The Government are considering this point."

SRI K. VENKATARAMANA GOWDA :—" May I know the rates of travelling and daily allowances which the presidents of panchayat boards are entitled to draw for attending the conference? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" A delegate fee not exceeding Rs. 5 per delegate, for railway journeys three third class fares to and fro for attending the conference and for journeys by road actual bus fare and a daily allowance of Rs. 3 per day."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know whether sanction was accorded for attending the conference only to the president of the panchayat board or whether one or two members also could attend? "

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THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Each panchayat board is allowed to send one delegate. Some of the delegates may be presidents also."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is it proper to allow travelling allowance to delegates for attending a conference, the decisions of which the Government were not bound to implement or even look into? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" I don't think the hon. Member expects the Government to agree to all decisions of any conference."

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER :—" This conference was once fixed up to be held on a particular date and subsequently it was postponed to a later date. Some of the presidents, who did not receive intimation about the postponement, went to Madras to attend the conference and returned to their places. Are they entitled to double travelling allowance? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" I don't think so. No double travelling allowance will be allowed."

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" What is the number of delegates each panchayat board was allowed to send? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" I have already answered that question."

SRI P. VENKATESHA SHOLAGAR :—" பொது மக்கள் பணத்திலிருந்து இந்த மாதிரி பஞ்சாயத்து மகாநாட்டிற்கு வருவதற்கு sanction செய்யப்பட்ட தொகையை செலவழித்துக்கொண்டு வந்த delegate-களில் சிலர் மகாநாடு நடந்த ஹாலுக்குள் போவதற்கு இடமில்லாமல் வெளியில் நின்றுகொண்டிருந்துவிட்டு பிரயோஜனமில்லாமல் திரும்பிப் போகவேண்டியிருந்தது என்பது மந்திரி அவர்களுக்குத் தெரியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" That is why one hon. Member said that the conference was unwieldy, implying thereby that such conferences in future should be held districtwar or regionwar."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" The Hon. Minister has not answered the first part of my question. How many delegates attended the conference? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" About 2,000 delegates."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" What is the total amount spent by all the panchayat boards in sending delegates to the conference? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" I do not have the figure."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" பஞ்சாயத்து மகாநாட்டில் நல்ல முடிவுகள் செய்வார்களென்றும், அவைகளைச் சர்க்கார் கவனித்து நடைமுறையில் அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவருவார்களென்ற நோக்கத்துடன் பஞ்சாயத்து போர்டுகளினுடைய டெலிகேட்டுகள் மகாநாட்டுக்கு வருவதற்கு போக்கு வரத்து

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செலவு செலவழிக்கப்பட்டதா ? சர்க்கார் மகாநாட்டின் முடிவுகளில் எவைகளை நடைமுறையில் அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதைத் தெரிவிக்க முடியுமா ? ''

MR. SPEAKER :—" நீங்கள் Travelling Allowance-லிருந்து வேறு subject-க்குப் போய்விட்டீர்கள்."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" The Hon. Minister is prepared to answer my question."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Even if he is prepared to answer, I cannot allow it. Another hon. Member may rise and put a question on the same subject, but not directly arising out of the question."

SRI V. S. SIVAPRAKASAM :—" In reply to a question on this subject put on some other day, the Hon. Minister said that the conference was not initiated by the Government. Now he says that the Government are considering the question of giving travelling and daily allowances to delegates. I want to know how both these statements could be reconciled."

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The Government agreed to the Union holding the conference. That was what I said the other day."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" In view of the unwieldy nature of that conference, have the Government any idea to hold regional conferences? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" It is under the consideration of the Government."

* 486 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM :—" இன்று எனக்கு கேள்வி கேட்க விருப்பமில்லை."

Import of rice from Coorg.

* 487 Q.—SRI T. ANANTA PAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state— 10-30 a.m.

(a) the estimated deficit in rice for the State this year,

(b) whether any agreement was reached with the Government of Coorg recently for the supply of rice;

(c) if so, what are the terms of the agreement; and

(d) where the Government propose to utilize this rice?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) The estimated deficit of rice for 1954 is about 4·3 lakhs tons.

" (b) The answer is in the negative. The Government of India have, however, allotted a quota of rice from Coorg.

" (c) Does not arise.

" (d) The 14,000 tons of rice from Coorg have been allotted to Malabar."